

ARSENAL TO ADD MORE EMPLOYEES

Demilitarization Program Will Require 250 Workers

Officials at the Joliet arsenal are now engaged in planning for the demilitarization of excess ammunition and ammunition components which will provide employment for about 250 more workers at the plant before June, it was reported today by Col. Byron Rife, commanding officer.

A program for demilitarization of excess ammunition and ammunition components has been authorized by the war department for the Joliet arsenal, which will result in the reopening of a renovating line at EOP for the disassembling of ammunition and steaming out of excess and obsolete shells and bombs.

"ABOUT 250 NEW employees will be needed for this operation," an aid to Col. Rife commented, "bringing the total number of persons employed here to 750 by June 1, 1946, when the demilitarization operation should be at its peak. The unit will operate at about the same rate as it did prior to the shutdown of all operations late in 1945. It is expected that the program will continue indefinitely until all such ammunition is demilitarized.

"A program for loading practice bombs for the army air corps," the officer continued, "will also get under way before the middle of this year. Plans for this activity have not yet reached such a stage that we can give any estimate on the number of employees we will need."

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ed March 4 that the ordnance plant would resume renovation operations and the loading of bombs for the air corps. However, no confirmation of the story could be obtained from officials at the arsenal or the field director of ammunitions office at that time.